

during appropriation season, of course, Democrats and Republicans debate our differences, but we have always historically rallied together in opposition to taxpayer-funded abortions, and we have adopted the bipartisan Hyde amendment.

However, for some inexplicable reason, this year is different. In 1994, then-Senator Joe Biden famously stated: "Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them." Of course, he was right. But the President's position has changed now, giving fuel to the fire of Democrat leadership here in this House to follow suit in their own funding bills.

It is time to make these Hyde amendment protections permanent. It is true: Hyde saves lives. And today I am asking my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize the inherent dignity of every single human life, rejecting this blatant attack on pro-life amendments like the Hyde amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in this House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN). Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

□ 1200

STANDING WITH THE CUBAN PEOPLE

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Today, Mr. Speaker, I stand with the Cuban people in their struggle for freedom.

Today, I ask that the Cuban Government respect basic human rights, basic religious freedoms, freedom of speech, freedom of association, and the freedom to be heard.

Today, I ask that the Cuban Government listen to the plight of the Cuban people.

Deteriorating living conditions, rising healthcare concerns, COVID-19, all of these factors have left the Cuban people hungry, vulnerable, and very angry.

That is why, after decades of repression, thousands of brave men and women, especially young people, have taken to the streets of Cuba, marching to be heard, demanding that the Cuban Government respond to their pleas for help.

Instead, the Cuban Government has responded by halting internet access and beating and arresting Cuban citizens that are calling for freedom.

In Havana alone, the Cuban Government has attacked protesters and arrested more than 100 young people.

If the Government of Cuba wants to normalize relations with the United States, the first thing the Cuban Government has to do is to respect human rights and religious freedoms.

STANDING AGAINST THE CASTRO REGIME

(Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Cuban people and against the illegitimate, violent dictatorship that continues to assault the basic freedoms and rights of the Cuban people.

This photo here behind me is of two of my heroes, my abuelo and abuela. In 1960, they and their children were forced from their homeland by the communist regime for having the audacity to say no to Castro and his thugs.

Sixty years later, that same regime and that same poisonous ideology wreak terror on the Cuban people as the people march courageously in the streets, knowing full well what brutality awaits them as they ask for the most basic of human rights.

Yet, there are some in this body who foolishly wish to blame America for the plight of the island and the suffering of the Cubans. Let me say emphatically that the Cuban people are suffering and crying out for freedom because the communists have spent 60 years cynically destroying their country and trying to break the spirit of their own people. They will not succeed.

I stand firmly against the Castro regime and any of their apologists, and I stand with the Cuban people who are crying out for freedom.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, throughout my career, I have worked to protect vulnerable populations.

Yesterday, I was proud to support the Consumer Protection and Recovery Act, which will aim to protect exploited consumers, including the elderly, who are oftentimes the most at risk.

The Federal Trade Commission has an essential role to safeguard consumers from businesses that utilize misleading and deceptive practices. These bad actors must be held accountable, and the victims of any scam deserve justice.

I appreciate the leadership of the House Energy and Commerce Committee to ensure that the FTC has the capabilities it needs to protect all individuals from fraud.

I encourage our Senate colleagues to consider this important legislation as soon as possible.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, nearly 20 years ago, I introduced legislation in this House, which passed the House and the Senate. President George W. Bush signed it into law, and it went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and now is the law of the land. It banned partial-birth abortion in this country.

While that was landmark legislation, today, it is more important than ever that we protect innocent unborn life.

That is why, a little over a month ago, the city of Lebanon in my congressional district back home became one of more than 30 cities across the country, and the first in Ohio, to become a sanctuary city for the unborn.

It is why I have consistently and enthusiastically supported legislation which would get rid of the funding for Planned Parenthood and its affiliates and supported legislation like H.R. 18, which codifies the Hyde amendment to ensure that Federal taxpayer money does not fund abortions.

And it is why, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

We should not allow tax dollars to go for funding other people's abortions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN). As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

GUN VIOLENCE PLAGUES OUR COUNTRY

(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the gun violence plaguing this country and the elected officials who stand by and watch, content on not passing new laws to address its scourge on the American people.

I rise for the 9-year anniversary of the mass shooting that took place in a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, 9 years ago this week—12 lives gone, 70 injured.

I rise for all of those who were at the baseball game just this last weekend around the corner, running for their lives because they heard there was a shooting.

Your gun rights are not under attack when 23 million firearms were sold in the United States of America in 2020 alone. But what is under attack is your ability to live freely in this country without the threat of gun violence in a movie theater, in your place of worship, in your school, in your backyard, or driving around at night.

I rise for the students who marched for their lives, and I rise because the need to pass a law for gun safety is of the fierce urgency of the now.

REMEMBERING HERB HEILBRUN

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, this past December, America lost another hero from our Greatest Generation, Herb Heilbrun.

Born and raised in Cincinnati, Herb enlisted in the Army Air Corps after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He flew 35 missions during World War II, where he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for saving the lives of his crew after his plane was hit.

Following the war, Herb returned to Cincinnati, where he worked in sales and real estate before being named president of the Cincinnati Board of Realtors in 1970.

Herb's service did not stop after the war. Herb Heilbrun devoted the later years of his life to traveling our great United States of America with his best friend, a fellow Cincinnati and Tuskegee airman named Johnny Leahr. They reached out to teach students the importance of respect, racial tolerance, and friendship.

Herb was truly a beloved member of our community. Always appearing at veterans' events, proudly in his uniform, he passed away at the age of 100.

It was a privilege for me to call Herb Heilbrun my friend. May we all honor him for his life of service and dedication to our country, to his community, and to his family. May he rest in peace.

Earlier this year, I introduced a bill to rename a post office in Avondale after Herb and John, and I urge the House to pass it without delay.

HONORING HAZEL ERBY, BETTY THOMPSON, AND HENRY GIVENS, JR.

(Ms. BUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today with heavy hearts. Since the beginning of July, we have lost three civil rights giants in our community: Ms. Hazel Erby, Ms. Betty Thompson, and Dr. Henry Givens, Jr.

Mama Hazel and Mama Betty were trailblazers, breaking down barriers for Black women and all Black people to be leaders in St. Louis and beyond. I would not be Missouri's first Black Congresswoman without the doors that they opened up for me.

Dr. Henry Givens, Jr., led Harris-Stowe State University for 32 years. His leadership transformed Harris-Stowe, the university I attended, from a small college with just one building into the nationally acclaimed HBCU that it is today.

We will miss them all dearly, but together, we are St. Louis strong. We will

carry their work forward to build a more just future for all of us.

REOPEN U.S.-CANADA BORDER

(Mr. JACOBS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration announced that it would once again extend the U.S.-Canada border closure for nonessential travel until August 21.

This is yet another example of the President's failure on this issue. His second day in office, he signed an executive order calling for a plan. That never happened.

We have sent multiple letters from my office calling for answers. They have gone unanswered.

Reporters have asked for clarity. The White House has dodged.

Families and small businesses have pleaded for action so they can reunite and recoup lost revenue. They have been ignored.

Canada has announced that they will allow fully vaccinated Americans in the country starting in August. This is long overdue but still light years ahead of our President.

This extension is unacceptable, ignores the science, and extends the suffering of families and small businesses in my region.

Reopening the border for non-essential travel can be done safely. The time for stalling and silence has long passed. The Biden administration needs to act immediately and reopen our shared border.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. CLYDE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, as elected Representatives, we are obligated to handle taxpayer dollars in a manner that is both responsible and above reproach. For decades, legislators, through provisions such as the Hyde amendment, have rightfully shielded hardworking citizens' tax dollars from the unethical practice of abortion.

However, countless legislative proposals this Congress prove that my colleagues across the aisle are not interested in preserving vital pro-life, good government provisions upon which our constituents depend, as they have intentionally eliminated the Hyde amendment at every opportunity. By removing pro-life provisions like Hyde, we are subjecting the American people to funding practices that violate the sanctity of life.

I could speak at length about the horrors of abortion, but the simple fact of the matter is this: Taxpayer dollars should never financially support abortion, and we should always protect the conscience rights of our constituents.

As such, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

I am proud to stand up for the lives of the unborn, and I strongly urge my colleagues to do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

EXTREME DROUGHT IN MINNESOTA

(Mrs. FISCHBACH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, most of Minnesota is in extreme drought, and many of our farmers are facing a tremendous hardship.

There are reports that herd culling is already being done around the region due to the lack of quality feed, and farmers will soon be forced to make impossible decisions regarding their crops and livestock.

The situation is serious and demands our attention. I have asked the administration to allow emergency haying and grazing on CRP lands now, but that request was met with silence.

If the drought continues to worsen, and if the administration does not act, the impacts on our economy will be far-reaching.

In the meantime, I stand ready to assist my constituents in navigating these challenges and working toward quick recovery.

□ 1215

WE NEED TO REIN IN SPENDING

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about rising inflation and the burden this is having on American taxpayers.

President Biden promised not to raise taxes on middle-class Americans, but the rising price of essentials like groceries, gas, and appliances are making our paychecks worth less.

Gas prices are up 45.1 percent.

In my home State of California, gas is more than \$1 higher than the national average. We already pay some of the highest taxes in the country.

And make no mistake, this inflation is a hidden tax on every single American.

Despite these rising costs that American families are paying the price for, President Biden has insisted that the solution is to spend trillions more.

American families are going to continue feeling the consequences as long as President Biden's reckless tax-and-spending spree continues. We need to rein in spending and lower taxes for